

# DRINK WATER GRAZING PERMIT RENEWAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
OR-025-03-009

Bureau of Land Management  
Burns District Office  
28910 Hwy 20 West  
Hines, Oregon 97738

January 16, 2003

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter I. Introduction: Purpose of and Need for Action.....	1
Chapter II. Alternatives Including the Proposed Action .....	1
A.    Description of the Proposed Action.....	1
B.    No Grazing Alternative.....	2
Chapter III. Description of the Affected Environment .....	2
Chapter IV. Environmental Consequences.....	2
A.    Proposed Action.....	2
1.    Anticipated Impacts .....	2
2.    Cumulative Impacts .....	3
Chapter V. Persons and Agencies Consulted.....	3
Chapter VI. Participating Staff .....	3

DRINKWATER GRAZING PERMIT RENEWAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
OR-025-03-009

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION: PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

Grazing permittees who graze their livestock on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land shall have grazing permits issued to them under the grazing regulations (43 CFR 4130.2(a)). Grazing permits shall be issued for a term of 10 years unless there is some reason which requires a term of less than 10 years under the grazing regulations (43 CFR 4130.2(d)). In this case, the Drinkwater grazing permit will be issued for a period of 10 years.

The Three Rivers Resource Management Plan (RMP) of 1992, identified land that was available for livestock grazing. The land in the Scat Field Allotment (#7034), Lone Pine Allotment (#7043), and Lone Pine Field Allotment (#7052), which are within the Drinkwater grazing permit, meets the criteria set forth in the Three Rivers RMP under GM 1.4, Page 2-37 (refer to Maps A and B). This action is also in conformance with applicable Tribal, State, and County Land Use Plans. (This analysis is tiered to the Three Rivers RMP and incorporates by reference, the information and analysis contained within the RMP.)

There are currently sage-grouse and/or its habitat present in one or more of the allotments under this term grazing permit. The current grazing system addresses the needs of sage-grouse and, therefore, should not be in conflict with the needs for sage-grouse.

An analysis of the grazing systems used on the Scat Field Allotment (#7034), Lone Pine Allotment (#7043), and Lone Pine Field Allotment (#7052) for compliance with the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management was completed in 2002. All three allotments are meeting the standards and guidelines under current management practices.

CHAPTER II: ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is to issue to the current permittee (Drinkwater), a term livestock grazing permit to graze livestock on public land for a period of 10 years. The new term permit will be issued with the same terms and conditions as the expiring permit. This would continue the existing grazing management and would be the same as a no action alternative. Therefore, both alternatives will be analyzed under the proposed action. There has been monitoring of the effects of the current livestock grazing system in place within the allotment for a number of years. These study sites have been read periodically for over 30 years. Monitoring data collected was last formally analyzed in 1996. The data analyzed indicates that allotment objectives are currently being met.

B. No Grazing Alternative

The proposed action would continue current terms and conditions. Monitoring has shown that allotment resource objectives and Standards for Rangeland Health are being met. Therefore, while a "No Grazing Alternative" has been considered, for the above reasons, this alternative will not be addressed further in this document.

### CHAPTER III: DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The following critical elements of the human environment have been analyzed in the Three Rivers RMP, are not present or will not be affected by the proposed action or alternative: Prime or Unique Farmlands, Floodplains, Hazardous Materials, Special Management Areas, Resource Natural Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas, Air Quality, Water Quality, Cultural Heritage, American Indian Religious Concerns, Noxious Weeds, Paleontology, Special Status Fauna, and Special Status Flora.

The following critical elements have been recently established and were not addressed in the Three Rivers RMP/EIS.

Migratory Birds: Some migratory birds are known to use the project area for nesting, foraging, and resting as they pass through on their yearly migrations.

Environmental Justice: There are no economically disadvantaged or minority populations present within the project area.

Adverse Energy Impacts: No known adverse impacts would occur to energy development, production, or distribution as a result of the proposed action.

### CHAPTER IV: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Proposed Action

1. Anticipated Impacts

Grazing use for Drinkwaters would be authorized under a new term grazing permit. The level and timing of use by livestock in the allotment would not change from what was authorized at the time the Three Rivers RMP was adopted.

Since the writing of the RMP/EIS, the following resources have been recognized and were not analyzed in the RMP/EIS:

- a. Migratory Birds: There would be no known effect on migratory birds by the issuing of a livestock grazing permit.
- b. Environmental Justice: There are no economically disadvantaged or minority populations which would be disproportionately affected by issuance of a livestock grazing permit.
- c. Adverse Energy Impacts: There are no known impacts which would occur to any energy-related resources as a result of issuing a livestock grazing permit.

2. Cumulative Impacts

There are no known cumulative impacts, either positive or negative, that would occur if a grazing permit is issued.

## CHAPTER V: PERSONS AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

Jack Drinkwater, Permittee  
Jim Drinkwater, Permittee

## CHAPTER VI: PARTICIPATING STAFF

Bill Andersen, Acting Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist  
Gary Foulkes, District Planning/Environmental Coordinator  
Terri Geisler, Geologist  
Fred McDonald, Recreation  
Leslie Richman, Weed Specialist  
Willie Street, Range Management Specialist, Lead Preparer  
Fred Taylor, Wildlife Biologist  
Nora Taylor, Botanist  
Scott Thomas, Archaeologist  
Michael Weston, Fishery Biologist